

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-8, 20, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. Claims 9-19 and 26-32 have been allowed. Claims 2-4 and 21-23 have been objected for depending on a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 20 and 26 have been amended. Claims 33-35 have been added, and claims 2-4 and 21-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants believe that no new matter has been added thereby. Further, Applicants believe that the claims as presently pending are patentable over the cited art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation and obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Robert M. Barrett
Reg. No. 30,142
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4204

Dated: January 16, 2004